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B*

is adapted to receive the upper end of link member 30, which freely slides along the slot, and which abuts the distal end of adjustment screw 24. Further towards upper jaw 13 and around pin 18, upper handle 16 is generally U-shaped to receive the upper portion of jaw member 17. Proximal end of spring 25 is fastened to upper handle 16, while distal end of spring is coupled to jaw member 17; thereby providing a bias to keep jaws 13 and 14 open. Release lever 26 is pivotally coupled to lower handle 19 at pin 27.

*B2*

[0010] In operation, adjusting screw 24 moves the upper end of the linking member proximally or distally. This affects the force required to bring upper handle 16 and lower handle 19 together into a locked position, thereby making the locking pliers adjustable. Once locked, the pliers 10 can be unlocked (released) by moving the distal end of release lever 26 towards lower handle 19, thereby levering up the portion of linking member 30 that abuts lower handle 19 when the pliers 10 are locked.

#### In the Drawings:

Please replace FIGS. 1 and 2 with the corrected drawing sheets submitted herewith.

Reference character "21" has been changed to "30" for the "linking member" in both the specification and the drawings, as required by the Examiner.

#### In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1–6 and 15–24 without prejudice to the underlying subject matter.

Please add the following new claims:

*B3*

25. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

an upper handle having an upper jaw and an adjustment screw;

a jaw member, pivotally attached to the upper handle, having a lower jaw;

a spring attached to the jaw member and the upper handle;

a lower handle pivotally attached to the jaw member;

a linking member having a lower end and an upper end, the lower end pivotally attached to the lower handle, the upper end abutted to the adjustment screw;